

THE AUTHORSHIP OF *SCIRPUS ATROVIRENS*.—Traditionally the credit for the original description of *Scirpus atrovirens* is given to Muhlenberg in Descr. Gram. 43–44. 1817. In this publication Muhlenberg himself gives credit for the description of the plant to Willdenow. In the latter's Enum. Pl. (1809) on page 79 is the original description of *Scirpus atrovirens* and Willd. should replace Muhl. where reference is made to the original authorship.—A. A. BEETLE, Division of Agronomy, University of California, Davis, Calif.

---

MODIOLA CAROLINIANA IN MASSACHUSETTS.—In April, 1938 our attention was called to a malvaceous plant which had appeared in a recently seeded lawn near the Goodell Library on the Massachusetts State College Campus, and which we identified as *Modiola caroliniana* (L.) G. Don, a plant which normally ranges from Virginia southward into the Tropics. Thinking it to be only a stray, destined to disappear promptly, we gave it no further thought till this year, when it was again called to our attention. We find that it has now become a "foundation planting" extending for several feet along the underpinning of the building and forming a tangle of harsh, wiry branches which root at the nodes and fruit abundantly. Outward from the wall it has adapted itself to the lawn-mower by spreading into a tough mat-weed. Several feet away from it grows a flourishing colony of *Cynodon Dactylon* (L.) Pers., the Bermuda grass which, though reported for Massachusetts, is scarcely a normal part of our flora.

The secret of such aberrant behavior on the part of two southern species is not far to seek. They are growing in soil over the steam pipes. Incidentally they must be highly drought-resistant plants since the soil at this season is dust dry.

This appears to be the first record of *Modiola caroliniana* in Massachusetts and we are happy to deposit a sheet of the plant in the Gray Herbarium.—R. E. TORREY, Massachusetts State College, Amherst.

*Volume 46, no. 548, including pages 285–316 and plates 836 and 837, was issued 17 August, 1944.*